WINTER HISTORY NIGHTS

Two evening presentations will be offered to Museum Association members and guests during the months of January and February.

A donation of $1.00 is requested of all Association members and $2.00 from non-members at the door. Coffee, tea, and cookies will be served. Please make reservations by phoning the Museum (287-2290).

The programs will be held in the upstairs meeting room of the Firehouse, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Parking will be available on the Museum grounds; enter through Phelan Avenue gate.

Thursday, January 22nd The Chinese in The Santa Clara Valley

Gloria Horn, Professor of Economics at Mission College, member of our Board of Directors, and editor of Chinese Argonauts, An Anthology of the Chinese Contributions to the Historical Development of Santa Clara County, will speak on the Chinese in the early Santa Clara Valley. Among many other honors and distinctions, Gloria has been named an Outstanding Educator of America and was the recipient of a Certificate of Appreciation for Extraordinary Service from the Chinese American Citizens, Santa Clara County.

Gloria will be followed by William Roop, consultant to Archaeological Resource Service who will share with us some of the Chinese archaeological finds from the Fairmont Hotel site in downtown San Jose. The Fairmont Hotel is being built on the site of old Chinatown, which burned in 1897. The artifacts were found during the excavation of the basement of the hotel.

Thursday, February 5th Santa Clara Valley Black History

The evening will begin with spirituals sung by Bernice Jordan. Dr. Steven Millner, Chairman of the Afro-American Studies Department at San Jose State University will be the speaker for the evening. His talk entitled, Blacks and the Attractions of the South Bay will be an overview of the presence and contributions of black individuals in the Santa Clara Valley since the turn of the century.

The second half of the evening will be a program of traditional spirituals by Guyton Ensemble, directed by John Guyton. (see article on page 8)
ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I begin my second term as President of your Association, I pulled copies of last year's newsletters to review what we accomplished in 1986.

1986 was a very busy year for your Association and I believe we offered you, our members, a variety of opportunities to become involved and enjoy your participation in the San Jose Historical Museum. When you attended a lecture, took advantage of a bus tour, participated in a meeting or party, attended a Christmas Party, or joined the association’s autograph party, or Victorian Christmas Living History Days, the association was sponsored in 1986 by... [text continues]

MUSEUM AUXILIARY

The first annual Auxiliary general meeting was held in January with 20 members present. The 1987 slate of officers was approved. The standing rules were offered to the association for a vote. The Auxiliary is considering forming a committee and holding Auxiliary functions at the 1987 Fall Meeting.

Officers for 1987: President, Joan Helms; Secretary, Anna Banta; Standing committee chairs: Luberta Gross; O'Brien; Sue Murray; Gift Shop: Mary Leonard; Public relations/newsletter, Beth Knowles; Library, last half of 1986, Mary Knowles. Hospitality, Nancy Welch; Continental, Marion Langley; Past President/ advisory committee member, Sister Paul Augustine; Member-at-large, Paula Mazier; Youth, Jennifer DeBert.

The Auxiliary joined with the docents for a very nice Christmas program, and as a result of their hard work, they came in vintage costumes which added to the festivities. The Auxiliary also holds a special Christmas parade. The rain stopped and we wished everyone a Merry Christmas as we walked around the park.

Docent Report

Some interesting numbers are beginning to take form. For the past three years, we have had over 4000 visitors a month at the Museum. Preceded tours, including the Outing, Addams Museum, and the John C. Stevens Home for October and November of this year are over 2600 visitors a month. Now, the same two months of 1986, and, between now and the end of the year, there are approximately 3500 scheduled tours for the month of December. It is my hope that the number of Docent will continue to increase. The first 1987 meeting will be held at the Museum on January 7, 1987.

The Art of A.D.M. Cooper

Indian Paintings
The Warpath
Buffalo Hunt
Reflections

Offered by Patterson's Antiques 88 West Main St., Los Gatos, CA. (408) 354-1718

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Sourisaeoo Academy Grant

The San Jose Historical Museum Association has been awarded a grant from the Sourisaeoo Academy for California State and Local History to catalog a portion of our sizable serial material collection. The Museum has approximately 600 and is currently processing the manuscripts covering the entire Santa Clara Valley. The grant will allow us to gather artifacts, index, and arrange these materials for better research and cultural heritage conservation. We certainly appreciate the support of the Sourisaeoo for this and other projects.

Saturday Research Open Hours

The archives will be open on the following Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. for researchers: January 17 and 31, February 14 and 28, March 14 and 28, April 11 and 25. Please call the Archives for an appointment. Leslie Masunaga, Archivist

IN THE COLLECTION

This year has been another active one in the collections. The Museum has received 124 donations since January comprising thousands of items. We thank each donor who has entrusted their past to the Museum's care.

The Museum contributed displays to seven outside events in 1986. These were an exhibit of A.D.M. Cooper paintings at City Hall in the community, and exhibitions at the Valley Info Center at the San Jose Library; Santa Clara County building lobby; Tassafy "Talent" California History Center at DeAnza College; Oakridge Shopping Center and the East Valley Teachers Fair. It is always important to bring the Museum to the community.

Currently there are three new exhibits in the Pacific Hotel. Curator Milita Martin has chosen a selection of musical instruments from our collection for this case. The instruments are typical of those in popular use during the 19th century. Some of them have gone out of favor with others having gained new popularity over the long years. This display will remain through January.

In the lobby cube is a display centered on the theme of "Childhood." It features a girl's holiday outfit and a doll. The exhibit was prepared by volunteer Barbara Mitchell and Edna Schmid.

The garments on display in the Gift Shop have been cleaned. Three dresses and two bodices from our collection are on exhibit. Each piece is worth careful study. The garments were selected and prepared by our textile volunteers.

Finally, a special thank you to the collections volunteers whose help is beyond price. Helen Kinsky was honored for the art collection by cleaning, matting, cataloging and exhibiting objects in the Museum collection. Volunteers Joy Spickelmier and Dorothy Strong are recognized for their care of our textile collection. They also have cleaned, cataloged and exhibited pieces from the costume collection. The Museum depends upon volunteers like these. Thank you very much.

Nancy Valley, Curator

MUSEUM STAFF

Mignon Gibson, Director
Carolyn Sherrod, Staff Technican
Wanda Foss, Senior Steno
Jeanne Kondo, Clerk/Typist
Archives
Leslie Masunaga, Archivist
Education
Virginia Beck, Curator of Education
Dulce Junzian, Volunteer Coordinator
Ellen Garboke (p/t), Volunteer Projects

Events
Monter Duran, Museum Events Coordinator
Curator
Milita Rice Martin, Curator
Sarah Higho Nunes, Curator

ASSOCIATION STAFF

Kathleen Multer, Administrator
Administrative Services
Carol Ouellette, Bookkeeper
Earl Shields, Membership Secretary
Shops
Carol Carlson, Manager
Ann Mitchell, Society Manager
Dee Calicac, Supervisor

HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION CORNER

Season's Greetings from the members of the City of San Jose's Historic Landmarks Commission

In my first two months as President of this Commission, we have had a full agenda of business, including, among our accomplishments, the entire Commission attended the National Trust for Historic Preservation Training Program which was held at Santa Clara University in September. The Commission has also recommended the City Council that landmark designations be given to the Germainman Hall on North 2nd St, the San Jose Civic Auditorium, and the Post Office. In addition, the Medical-Dental Building (Vallejo Towers) on East Santa Clara Street. As San Jose "grows up," the Historic Landmarks Commission hopes that the city will continue to support our efforts to preserve historic buildings.

With that goal in mind, the commission is still hard at work to find final relocation sites for historically significant homes which have been relocated from the Guadalupe-Auzaerias Project (new convention center).

Two new commissioners, John Alond and Patwell, have been appointed. In addition, the commission is pleased to have members of the staff, Virginia Beck and Leslie Alexander, who were crucial to the Museum, in attendance at our meetings.

All the commissioners look forward to working with you in 1987. We welcome your participation and support. Happy New Year.

Leslie Parks, Chairman
Historic Landmarks Commission

A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS AT THE SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

A Victorian Christmas at the San Jose Historical Museum was held on December 11, 12 and 13, 1986. The three-day event was not only a direct link to the success for the Museum Association, but the City, but a community celebration of simple holiday customs.

Sylvia Greveling, Chairman of Special Events for the Museum Association Board of Directors, organized this special holiday event and coordinated the efforts of the many volunteers who were crucial to its success.

The Museum buildings were decorated throughout the courtesy of local florists and special groups. We recognize especially Anne's Flowers, Blossom Floral, Cafe Flora, Crouse of Flowers, Elloquent Herbs & Everlastings, the Italian American Heritage Foundation, Gerri Osborn & Associates. The Museum depends upon volunteers like these. Thank you very much.

Nancy Valley, Curator

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The San Jose Historical Museum is part of the City of San Jose Parks and Recreation Department.
ANDREW JACKSON GRAYSON
THE AUDUBON OF THE WEST

Much has been written about such San Jose pioneer artists as Andrew P. Hill and A.D.M. Cooper, but only recently has it come to light that another significant western painter began his artistic career here in the 1850’s. Andrew Jackson Grayson’s paintings of western birds have earned him the title of “The Audubon of the West.”

From the beginning, Andrew Grayson, who was the son of a wealthy Louisiana planter, loved the wilder aspects of nature and spent his days tramping the marshes of his native state and glorifying in its abundant birdlife. His early attempts to paint as an artist were quashed by his practical father who persuaded his son to enter the mercantile profession. Well educated for his time, Grayson graduated from a Catholic college near St. Louis. In 1842 he married Frances Jane Timmons, a Louisiana girl who shared many of his enthusiasms. Together they would lead an eventful life which they could scarcely have dreamt of early on.

Andrew, Frances and their baby son Edward became “overlanders” in 1846, and the Sierras of the ill-fated Donner Party. The same fate might have befallen their party had not Grayson, who was acting as the leader, managed to find a way to help the others. He established his first estate in Marin County near the present site of Fairfax. Like many other entrepreneurs in the turbulent West, he made and lost fortunes with equanimity. He took great pride in his role as an argument, and was a founder and a member of the Society of California Pioneers. According to Clyde Arbuckle’s History of San Jose, Grayson was one of the distinguished western artists William S. Jewett’s $2,000 in 1850 to paint “The Promised Land.” This panoramic picture showed the land and the pioneer garb, descending from the Sierras into California. The painting, given to the San Francisco Mechanics Library, has become a classic of its kind.

San Jose. As he wrote in his journal: In a beautiful spot rearing amongst the trees and roads was our delightful little cottage, with its artesian well in the front yard, a perpetual flowing fountain of crystal water. To walk along the yard which had been domesticated with much care and skill. Wild ones sang in the grove about the house. It was a place everyone delighted to visit. His son Edward attended the Santa Clara Mission School.

In this state, naturalist Grayson began to revive his repressed talents as an artist. Having no formal training in painting he tried to follow the example of the great Audubon in capturing the postures of the birds perched and flying. One of his first attempts was a tame roadrunner which he used for close observation. Like Audubon, Grayson wrote of the bird’s natural behavior: “I kept the species sketches, describing in detail the bird’s manners and habits. Of the roadrunner he wrote: The roadrunner is seldom seen in trees, unless pursued very closely, when it has been seen to spring from the ground to the branches, at a height of five or six feet, or more, and bound, but prefers running along a road or path, from whence it derives its name. I have now in my possession one of these birds, which is becoming quite tame, and readily feeds upon any kind of raw meat, but prefers lizard and small birds, which it swallows whole — feathers and all. If they are given to him alive, he will play with them before surrendering them, just as a cat or dog will do with a mouse. I have seen him devour three sparrows, one lizard and a portion of the breast of a chicken which it had expeined apparent inconvenience.

The house fitted became another of his favorite subjects: A pair of these birds built their nest in a small bush in my garden in San Jose, the young of which I placed in a cage in my parlor, and having been able to fly, and removed them to the house. The old ones followed and still continued to feed them through the bars of their little prison. I soon took pity on them, however, and gave them their freedom.

Soon Grayson’s drawings and articles began to appear in such publications as the Hopiean, the Hutchings California Magazine, and the California Journal of Science. A friend persuaded him to enter his work at the California State Fair in 1855. His first prize was awarded for a painting of the wood duck and his pet, the California roadrunner were awarded the first prize and a silver cup. In 1856, Andrew’s son Edward Grayson Fair the following year also took first prizes. As Grayson’s artistic skill increased, he was encouraged to pursue his business much of his finish and, ultimately, his own life in the pursuit of a career as an artist.

Sharing his business interests in other hands, Grayson decided that the South Bay was the best place to establish a studio there which he called Bird’s Nest Cottage. The Graysons surrounded their cottage with a variety of plants and shrubs, making the place something of an attraction in

The Leaser Roadrunner from Birds of the Pacific Slope, a portfolio of 166 Bird Portraits by Andrew Jackson Grayson. Courtesy of Jack Douglas.

Andrew Jackson Grayson.

An event occurred in 1852 that would permanently alter the course of Grayson. He purchased the recently acquired elephant folio edition of Audubon’s Birds of America, which is now in the Mercantile Library. Refreshing his husband’s early interest in bird drawing, Frances wasted no time in bringing this find to his attention. Grayson was enthralled by the color and detail in the works of his fellow Louisianian. He reminded him of his childhood ambition and inspired him to do for the West what Audubon had done for the eastern United States. In so doing would he give up his business, much of his family life, and ultimately, his own life in the pursuit of a career as an artist.

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ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION TO BENEFIT CHINESE TEMPLE

The Chinese American Women's Club of San Jose will celebrate its 25th anniversary in March 1987. The non-profit service organization plans a luncheon and fashion show to benefit the reconstruction of San Jose's Ng Shing Gung (Temple of Five Gods) at the San Jose Historical Museum.

"Lasting Legacy" will be held on March 14, 1987 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Sainte Claire Hilton Hotel in San Jose. The program will include unique and elegant fashions of ancient Chinese robes and headresses from the collections of Elleen Tong, Slides of the Ng Shing Gung temple furnishings in the San Jose Historical Museum collections will accompany the fashion show. Tickets are by reservation only; seating is limited. For further information pick up a brochure at the desk in the Pacific Hotel lobby at the Museum or call Anita Kwok (285-2180) or Emily Yue (293-2983).

NEW HISTORICAL ORGANIZATION FORMED

At the turn of the century, eighteen pharmacies were located in the four block area surrounding Market and Santa Clara streets. Now, most chain stores have a pharmacy counter and the corner drug store is a thing of the past. The recent closing of two of Santa Clara Valley's oldest drug stores, Modern Drug in San Jose and Corner Drug Store in Los Gatos, has prompted several area pharmacists to form an organization devoted to pharmaceutical history.

The Santa Clara County Historical Pharmacy Association was formed as a non-profit organization in December 1986 with the following purposes:

- To promote awareness of the professional heritage of pharmacy.
- To promote awareness of the aesthetic beauty of the tools, furnishings, and equipment used in pharmacy.
- To collect, exhibit, and preserve pharmaceutical objects;
- To improve and advance the art and science of pharmacy;
- To improve and promote public health.

As its initial project, the Historical Pharmacy Association is working with the San Jose Historical Museum to explore the possibility of constructing a replica of an 1890's pharmacy on the Museum grounds. For information about becoming a member of this organization, contact Larry Meilott, President, at 629-9352 or 299-5500.

CHARLES A. THOMPSON 1880-1971

April 1, 1880 marked the retirement from office of Santa Clara Township Justice of the Peace Charles A. Thompson, reputed to be California's oldest Justice of the Peace in terms of years served. He had won the part-time office in the election of November 6, 1908, narrowly defeating incumbent Irving Herrington. In 1930 Thompson also assumed the office of Santa Clara City Attorney replacing C.C. Cooledge. Thompson gave up the City Attorney post at the same time he stepped down as Justice.

Judge Thompson was extremely active in civic affairs. He led a state-wide campaign to raise funds to restore the old Mission Santa Clara. He is referred to in his obituary as one of the most "presidented" people in our county in that he had served as leader of many organizations including the local alumni chapter of the University of Santa Clara from which he was graduated in 1900. In 1937 while State Grand President of the Native Sons of the Golden West he laid the cornerstone of the Los Angeles City Hall.

Thompson's position as Township Justice was taken by Santa Clara City Trustee Joseph P. Kelley who later was appointed to the Santa Clara County Superior Court.

Judge Thompson died on June 10, 1971 at the age of 91.

Judge Mark Thomas, Jr. Advisory Board

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FOOTNOTE TO MURDER:  THE DUNHAM CASE

The old Santa Clara Valley has its legends, some factual, some mysterious. The Way Mystery House, to this day, is an excellent example still available to the public for their various assumptions or conclusions.

Less known is the ghastly Dunham Murder Mystery, still a haunting enigma in the minds of many in the older pioneer generation. The writer is one of these. I can remember my father dramatically pointing with his buggy whip as we drove by the base of this horrid affair. No elaboration of the grisly details was necessary; my grandfather lived within gunshot sound of the catastrophe.

The morbid affair left two intriguing questions; why did Dunham commit this horrible crime, and how did he so permanently disappear? With Houdini cunning he covered all clues to his escape. It is the question of the escape that accounts for this article.

The known facts in the Dunham case have been told and published countless times. They can be summed up in one paragraph:

James C. Dunham, 32, on May 26, 1896 about midnight, returned to the home he shared with a Colonel McIlvain and family at an abandoned residence in Campbell, California. With pistol or axe he proceeded to murder the Colonel, the Colonel’s wife, his (Dunham’s) wife, and560
their baby. He also killed the McIlvain’s maid and two hired farm-hands. He was in fact seen riding a small horse on Campbell Avenue, and later in the vicinity of the Mount Hamilton Road. He has never been apprehended.

As the morning advanced, reported sightings of Dunham were received. All were on or around Mount Hamilton Road. An enormous sheriff’s posse was quickly formed to comb the area. It consisted of 600 persons, bloodhounds and supplies, a small army.

Here are examples of reported sightings. A crew of men near Smith’s Creek was planting a vineyard. A lady, Mrs. Corbella French, cooking for them, gave a man on horseback a sack of breakfast beans. He fitted Dunham’s description. A Swiss-Italian named Gobert, with a mountain farm, claimed that he saw such a man. There were other similar sightings.

WANTED FOR MURDER — James C. Dunham killed Gobert R. P. McIlvain and wife and four other persons about 12 o’clock on May 26th, at Campbell, near this city, and escaped. Reward $500. The事后 he was never seen again. He is a expert bicyclist and may be seen on the way to the coast. He is 5 feet 7 inches, 125 pounds, dark hair and blue eyes. In later years seen near on a black suit, cotton shirt, black trousers, once dining at a jelly bun. Walks very slowly with a ricass knife. Any information will be paid in full. J. H. Lyman — Sheriff.

The search continued for days, then weeks. Miles of territory were covered. A popular belief was that Dunham had chosen some remote spot and committed suicide. Some argued that he had deserted his home in the Santa Clara Valley, others that he had made his way across the mountains to the San Joaquin Valley. True, this route called for rugged mountain crossing of some 1,000 or 60 miles, much trackless. But in those days the San Joaquin West Side was sparsely settled. There he could find temporary shelter and avoid the noose. It would require superhuman effort but what has a murderer to lose?

And so the hunt for Dunham simmered down gradually. Men who looked like Dunham were sometimes detained by the law. It was said that one daring impostor, the image of Dunham, appeared on the vaudeville circuit in San Francisco and even in San Jose’s Joice theater! For years it would remain a popular topic of conversation and argument. Why did he do it and where did he really go? Dunham was a tough, clever little character. For a time he managed to give himself out and portray every photo or picture of himself that he could find in the house. Except one! A tint-type from which his likeness was taken by this writer and here reproduced.

In 1970 this writer wrote and published a book entitled Adventure Valley. In its collection of character episodes was the Dunham story in all its gory detail. Only brief mention was made of the writer’s belief that Dunham had really crossed those rugged mountains to the San Joaquin Valley.

But I was at last to receive a clue that my supposition indeed had possibilities.

I received a letter some time after Adventure Valley was published from a reader from Redwood City calling my attention to the elusive James Dunham, and provided a reference, a 1970 Bonanza fanzine packet book by Williams and Pepper entitled Lost Legends of the West.

The legend, or account of interest was “A Lost Chord In Tijuana Brass.” It covered a period of revolution in northern Mexico, particularly in the Baja California territory. It dealt with such notables as Diaz, Villa, and Madero, all struggling for supremacy. Not a few American soldiers-of-fortune were engaged; some were part of a small invasion army headed by Ricardo Flores Magón, another Mexican presidential contender. At times this ragged army numbered as few as 200 men, plundering, looting small villages for food, money or ammunition. At one point the book names officers of one of these groups: “Among its officers were Marshall Brooks, a cattle rustler from Campo, Sam Barron a professional train robber, James Dunham, who had murdered his wife and several of his relatives with an ax in Los Gatos, and Mojave Red, who was reputed to have beaten to death at least one man with his bayonet.” Dunham would have indeed been in fitting company!

So the suicide theory can be dismissed, but the escape route remains uncertain. For this writer, the Mount Hamilton sightings indicate that Dunham did indeed make it across the mountains to the San Joaquin, eventually to drift southward to meet some ultimate and deserving fate.

Should you ever visit the Pioneer Section of the Oak Hill Cemetery, listen to the sad wails of the wild peacocks and ponder the professed inscription on the concrete covering of the mass grave of Dunham’s victims: “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY SAITH THE LORD.”

Ralph Rambo

Most of us are familiar with the story of the Cool Gold Rush: Marshall’s discovery at Sutter’s Mill, the relaying of the find to the United States, and the onslaught of fortune seekers from the East, coming to California by land and by sea. The result was the overnight creation of “The City,” San Francisco, a population explosion in California, and our becoming the 31st state one year later. It is an intriguing, exciting and colorful chapter in American history.

But the saga of the Gold Rush does not stop here. While it is a part of California history to be sure, it is also a part of international history as well. A significant number of the Forty-niners came from abroad, from virtually every country in Europe, from Asia and Australia. And perhaps most important of all, Central and South America sent their sons with their enterprise and expertise.

We Were Forty-Niners chronicles the experiences of five different Chilianas as recorded in the diaries. Their stories run the gamut of human emotion. In the first diary we meet the Vincente brothers and their tale literally bordering on the hilarious. There is the prostitute who sneaks on board the ship in Valparaiso and has virtually every male passenger swear he purchased a ticket; enroute to “the diggings” they held their horses over and over and they hitch themselves together as a team — pulling a wagon whose front wheels do not turn; and of some historical insignificance we learn Carol, Doda did not originate the phrase “entertainment.”

In subsequent diaries we meet Ramon Navarro, Pedro Isidoro Combel and Benito Vicuna Mackenna. Here we read much of the suffering the Chileans went through. Misrepresentation, fraud, cheating, pregnancies and wholesale murders at the hands of unscrupulous Americans are recorded over and over and they hitch themselves together as a team — pulling a wagon whose front wheels do not turn; and of some historical insignificance we learn Carol, Doda did not originate the phrase “entertainment.”

We Were Forty-Niners presents us with an outsider’s view of Gold Rush California. It provides us with some very interesting and objective observations and insights into our national character.

Edwin A. Beilharz, a late beloved Professor of History at Santa Clara University, and Carlos Lopez have given us a book that is scholarly, informative, and highly entertaining. It is a book that is equally at home in the research library and the home library.

Philip Grasser

We Were Forty-Niners is available in the Museum Gift Shop for $4.95 + 10% discount for Museum members.

BOOK REVIEW FEATURED BOOK FOR JANUARY -- FEBRUARY

We Were Forty-Niners

Edwin A. Beilharz and Carlos U. Lope

Chilean Accounts of The California Gold Rush

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But the saga of the Gold Rush does not stop here. While it is a part of California history to be sure, it is also a part of international history as well. A significant number of the Forty-niners came from abroad, from virtually every country in Europe, from Asia and Australia. And perhaps most important of all, Central and South America sent their sons with their enterprise and expertise.

We Were Forty-Niners chronicles the experiences of five different Chilianas as recorded in the diaries. Their stories run the gamut of human emotion. In the first diary we meet the Vincente brothers and their tale literally bordering on the hilarious. There is the prostitute who sneaks on board the ship in Valparaiso and has virtually every male passenger swear he purchased a ticket; enroute to “the diggings” they held their horses over and over and they hitch themselves together as a team — pulling a wagon whose front wheels do not turn; and of some historical insignificance we learn Carol, Doda did not originate the phrase “entertainment.”

In subsequent diaries we meet Ramon Navarro, Pedro Isidoro Combel and Benito Vicuna Mackenna. Here we read much of the suffering the Chileans went through. Misrepresentation, fraud, cheating, pregnancies and wholesale murders at the hands of unscrupulous Americans are recorded over and over and they hitch themselves together as a team — pulling a wagon whose front wheels do not turn; and of some historical insignificance we learn Carol, Doda did not originate the phrase “entertainment.”

We Were Forty-Niners presents us with an outsider’s view of Gold Rush California. It provides us with some very interesting and objective observations and insights into our national character.

Edwin A. Beilharz, a late beloved Professor of History at Santa Clara University, and Carlos Lopez have given us a book that is scholarly, informative, and highly entertaining. It is a book that is equally at home in the research library and the home library.

Philip Grasser

We Were Forty-Niners is available in the Museum Gift Shop for $4.95 + 10% discount for Museum members.
The members of the San Jose Historical Museum Docent Council act as interpretive tour guides to over 40,000 children and adults each year at the Museum complex in Kelley Park, the Peralta Adobe in downtown San Jose, historic downtown San Jose, and the Japanese Friendship Garden in Kelley Park as well as in the school classroom. The creative talents and deep commitment of these 160 men and women is evidenced by the thousands of volunteer hours they contribute to the Museum each year.

Providing tours at the Museum complex is the primary function of the Docent Council, but this is only the beginning. Beyond this exciting service, the Docents create new education programs for children and adults, publicize the Museum through appearances at special events, and participate in the Museum special programs, living History Day and Victorian Christmas.

The Docents extend the Museum into the community in a wide variety of ways: the Victorian Walks, hands-on programs for 3rd and 4th grade children and above; the Ohlone Indian Schoolkit for 3rd through 5th grades; the Adult in beacon tours of Stockton House and the San Jose Almaden Quicksilver Mine of New Almaden. The Docents also have the opportunity through field trips to visit sites such as the San Jose Museum of Art, Juan Bautista, Oak Hill Cemetery, and Ardenwood Farm in Fremont. Docents also have access to sites such as San Jose's San Pedro Adobe, a Docent at the Museum for the group experience, sharing Santa Clara Valley history with children, and the education of myself.

Each spring the Museum staff conducts a training session for those individuals interested in becoming Docents. The Docent training classes begin on February 23 and continue each Monday morning until May 18. During these sessions, the instructors will begin their training with lectures on California and Santa Clara Valley history by experts in the field as well as learn various technical skills, such as how to attend a coffee or to learn more about the Docent Council. The Curator of Education at the Museum, Virginia Bech, will be leading us.

Jack London and the College Park Station

"I realize that much of California's romance is passing away, and I intend to see it that I, at least, shall preserve as much of that romance as is possible for me."


Jack London (1876-1916) has long been recognized as one of the most colorful personalities in American literature. Perhaps more than any other author, he captured the fascination of his generation through his daily personal exploits as well as in his writing. In less than twenty years he produced fifty books on such varied subjects as gold hunting, sea-faring, prize fighting, political corruption, penal reform, socialism, astral projection, agronomy, and ecology. Almost a legend in his own time, the man and author continue to fascinate readers around the world.

Born in San Francisco in 1876, London lived in the Bay Area all his life — first for a brief spell in the "City by the Bay," then in Oakland, the Livermore Valley, on the San Mateo coast, and finally in Glen Ellen in Sonoma County. As such, he used much of the northern California landscape as background in a number of short stories and novels. In fact, he used the Santa Clara Valley as a setting in the first chapter of his best known work, The Call of the Wild, published in 1903.

The story is familiar with San Jose and the "sun-kissed Santa Clara Valley" (as he described the latter in his classic novel), because of his frequent visits to the area at the turn of the century. During this time, the youthful London was employed by Mabel Appieather, a refined young lady who lived with her family on the corner of Elmo and Ashbury Streets in the College Park area of San Jose (the original house no longer exists).

Between 1898 and 1900, London called upon her often. At times, he peddled his bicycle the full forty miles from his home in Oakland, and stayed with the family on weekends. Other trips were made by ferry to Alviso, and in all probability, he took an interconnecting transit line from the little port community to the College Park Station, which was only a few blocks from Mabel's home.

During this period he was also beginning to make a name for himself in the world of literature. Using the experiences garnered from his Klondike gold seekers days of 1897-1898, he ultimately wrote his powerful tale of a great dog's reversion to the primitive, The Call of the Wild began to appear. But in a burst of creative energy, London extended the tale, and it became a 32,000 word novel. In the process, the author removed parts of the earlier known story, added it to College Park Station, and used it as the embarkation point for Buck's odyssey into the Northland wilderness.

Thus, this quaint structure became immortalized in one of the most famous animal fables in American literature. The College Park Station may have played a small part in the story, but its significance has not been ignored. It has been restored fairly accurately by Caltrans over the past two years, and today, anyone can visit the station. Still in use, it stands on the corner of College Park Street and San Jose Street — complete with facsimiles of the old railway directionals (as copied from a 1912 photograph). Someday (hopefully soon), a commemorative plaque may mark the location, which will make the history of the little station that much more meaningful.

Soul Not
Editor's Note: Soul Not, a longtime London devotee and collector and writer about literary California, has compiled a collection which has been published in a book entitled, JACK LONDON'S CALIFORNIA: The Golden Poppy and the Almaden Quicksilver, (Stapford Books, New York).

"While London is most often identified with his Northern tales," says Sal, "he was first and foremost a Californian. He drew heavily from his experiences in the Bay Area at the turn of the century, and this collection brings together the best of his stories from stories, novels, and articles — with distinctive California flavor."

This book, and many others about local and California history, are available at the Historical Museum's gift and book shop.

The William Square Clark Home

Among the jumbled contents of a San Jose Historical Museum Archives box, we found 86 bills, receipts, and related documents which, when put in order, tell the story of a housebuilding — from start to finish.

The residence was built by Abner Sedgley for millionaire and California politician, William Square Clark. The site was a twenty-acre plot at the northeast corner of Ninth and East Santa Clara streets.

The oldest document in the collection is a bill dated Feb. 21, 1870, for lumber; the last of the bills is dated October 18, 1871, for paint. The total cost for materials and labor was $1,428.06 — a large sum when considered in today's money. To be sure, the builders were paid $320 for a ten-hour day!

Architects also reveal building methods very different from those in use today. In some structures, windows were filled, cut, and placed at nearby mills and at the job; mortar and plaster were mixed, painted colored and mixed, and dried. As a result, of the various components, all was done at the site except for some doors.

The plumbing suppliers' bills reveal some interesting details: the Clark home had two copper bathtubs, two flush toilets, and a "clay urinal." The butler's pantry included an Italian marble slab, and the kitchen counters were of white oak.

Other woods used throughout the house, in both framing and finishing, included white pine, sugar pine, redwood, cedar, and cherry.

The local tradition solves the riddle of why William Clark removed his lovely new mansion to the Alameda so soon: the powerful bills of noted Saint Patrick at the Alameda! The house was dismantled around 1887 and rebuilt on the east side of the Alameda, between Schiele and Brown (now Pershing) streets.

Edith Smith
Edith Smith is completing her Masters in Librarianship with a specialty in Archives Procedures and Management and has spent the Fall 1986 semester in a Practicum at the SJHM Archives. She has recently been appointed as Archivist to the Soursie Academy where she is working on the A.P. Hill Collection.
MUSEUM CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The San Jose Historical Museum invites Association members and the general public to join in its celebration of Black History Month in February. The Museum will focus on awareness of black individuals and families in Santa Clara Valley's history through an exhibit, talks, and music. Visitors to the Museum will view an exhibit of photographs and family memorabilia in the exhibit case in the Pacific Hotel Lobby. The families whose history will be highlighted include the Jordan family who originally came to the Valley in 1897 and the Ellington family who first settled here in 1912. Harold Jordan was the first black pressman, working for T.M. Wright, printer and early abolitionist. Another member of the Jordan family worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad. The Ellington family, who counts Duke Ellington, the noted jazz musician among its members, were active in local retailing.

On Thursday, February 5, everyone is invited to enjoy a special program at the Museum at 7:30 p.m. in the Empire Firehouse Meeting Room. The evening will begin with Bernie Jordan, educator at Goss Elementary School in the Alum Rock School District for 20 years, singing spirituals. After this inspiring beginning, the audience will hear a talk by Dr. Steven Milner, chairman of the San Jose State University Afro-American Studies Department. His talk, entitled "Blacks and the Attraction of the South Bay," will give an overview of the presence and contributions of black individuals in Santa Clara Valley since the turn of the century.

The second half of the February 5 program will feature the Guyton Ensemble, directed by John Guyton. This popular music group will sing traditional spirituals including "Listen to the Lamb" by R. Nathaniel Dett.

The Black History Celebration at the Museum is under the staff direction of Virginia Beck, Curator of Education. Assisting her are members of the Black History committee, family and friends, Chairperson: Stella Bronson; Joyce Ellington; Jean Heinsohn; Pat McDowell; Bill Pioro and Virginia Beck. Community members who are interested in Black History are encouraged to become involved with the Santa Clara Valley Black Historical Society. For further information, contact: Joyce Ellington, 295-9183.

Virginia Beck
Curator of Education

MYSTERY PHOTO

Can you help us identify this photograph? Please write or call Leslie Masunaga, Archivist, (287-2290) if you can identify the building or location.

IMS CONSERVATION GRANT SOUGHT

The San Jose Historical Museum Association has agreed to act as sponsoring agent for an Institute of Museum Services Conservation Project Support Grant. This means that the Conservation Curators, in conjunction with the Association, will actively seek the procurement of a $25,000 grant. The deadline for submitting the grant application is January 30, 1987. If we are successful in obtaining this grant, it will provide the Museum with the documentation to seek further grants for upgrading our collection care facilities.

NOVEMBER MYSTERY PHOTO IDENTIFIED

The gentleman on the left is Ed "Strangler" Lewis, a colorful and well-known wrestler during the 20's and 30's who was hailed as the "World's Champion" by many for years. Lewis was married to a prominent female physician, Dr. Ada Scott Morton, who had her office in the Twocly Building at First and San Antonio. The other gentleman is Robert F. Benson who held the Studbaker dealership in San Jose. They are standing in front of a shiny Studbaker "Special Six." Unfortunately, the tower in the photo was cut off or you would readily identify Tower Hall on the San Jose State Campus. Plaudits to Clyde Arbuckle and Hank Calloway for identifying this photograph for us.

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

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[Persistent Circle ($500)
[Tower Circle ($200)
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Individual ($25)
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